

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

the RARS *Exciter*



Worldwide Friendship

July 2004, Number 399

Wayne
KD4SLQ
(standing)
checks out
the radios
that Robert
KG4BDX
brought to
the Tarheel
Scanner/
Shortwave
Listeners'
Field Day.
In the back-
ground,
Charlie
Broyles
looks at a
computer
monitor of
weather
images,



Photo by Virginia
KG4PFA

The Exciter

The **Exciter** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is the day after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

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RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:
145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
224.64 (Temporarily off the air)
444.525 (82.5 PL)

WEB SITE www.rars.org

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



Will return next month....

The Exciter goes to the printer the first Monday after the general meeting. Electronic mailing is the same week. Printing and mailing may vary.

The RARS 145.13 Repeater is waiting for YOU! PL 82.5 Tone

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS

Date: *Every first Tuesday of the Month*
Location: *Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark Avenue, in Raleigh*
Time: *7:30pm. Folks start showing up a bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.*

VE Testing: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August and November RARS meetings, at the RARSfest in April, the Cary Swapfest in July and the JARSfest in November, and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID and the original copy of your current license, plus any CSCEs you have for credit. Please refer to www.rars.org for more information.

Announcements

NEXT RARS MEETINGS:

July 6, 2004

WRAL's Greg Fishel, Hurricanes and Your Safety

Public Service Event:

September 11-12 MS150 in New Bern, NC. Plan on the event now to get a room in the area before it's too late. We need several ham operators for this event.



**DUES WILL BE DUE
BY JULY 1, 2004
Renew online at
www.rars.org**

RARS MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership renewals and new membership dues can be paid at RARS meetings, on-line at the RARS website, or mailed to the RARS treasurer. Mail To:

Greg Seamster RARS Treasurer
1405 Leanne Court
Raleigh, NC 27606

RARS now accepts credit card payments online for new members and membership renewals. See the RARS website (www.rars.org) for more information. You can join or renew for 1, 2, or 3 years.

DID YOU KNOW.....

There is a dinner once a month, known as the RARS Dinner, where hams and non-hams get together to eat, socialize and become better acquainted.

Are you looking for a ham-related activity that your spouse, date, or family can participate in, even if they don't want to be an amateur radio operator? This is it. Do you want to meet interesting, likeable people in a nice environment? This is for you.

Come join us on the 4th Tuesday of each month. We are currently meeting in the private dining room at the Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue. People start arriving around 6:30 P.M., and things usually wind down by 8 P.M. or so. You can come whenever it's convenient for you. This gathering is open to anyone, RARS and non-RARS members, adults and children alike. Hope to see you there.

GENERAL MEETING June 1, 2004

Vice President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. in absence of President Andy Peterson, NI4S.

Dick Bitner welcomed new members Joe Squashic, W4TTO, and Charles Murray, KI4DCR, and visitor Evan Pallesen, ZL2TFA.

Treasurer's Report, Greg Seamster, KE4PAX

- There are currently 276 members.
- The budget for fiscal year 2004-05 will be presented to the membership in July for approval.
- Membership renewals begin July 1, 2004.

Announcements:

- Dick Bitner, W8HYD, announced that classes for preparation for the Technician and General Class licenses have been postponed until late summer.
- Wake ARES EC John Guerriero, KG4HDT, announced that there would be an upcoming meeting in the next few months for volunteer recognition. He also noted that assistance would be needed for Red Cross shifts at the State Fair in the fall.
- Tim Buehlman, W4TIM, reported that he presented a program on amateur radio at A.B. Combs Elementary this past February, and he passed around several photographs taken at Combs. He emphasized amateur radio's tie-ins to math, language arts and science. He expressed hope that 6 to 8 schools would be visited next year.
- Dick Bitner, W8HYD, conducted an informal survey by show of hands to see how many people received their June Exciter by meeting time. Approximately 70% of those present had received the newsletter.

Program: Dick Bitner, W8HYD, introduced Field Day Chairman Neal Fisher, N4HAF, who gave a presentation on the upcoming Field Day on June 26-27 at the Carroll farm in Apex. Set-up will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, June 25. Neal invited members to come out to the site to see the equipment and various ways of operating, and to participate. Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO, suggested that members bring plenty of bug spray and expect an exciting time.

Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, provided an update on BPL and encouraged members to write their congressmen and others with their concerns.

Ashby Sprately, W5PGX, and Denyse Walter, KG4CXR won the door prizes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Virginia Enzor, KG4PFA, Secretary

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Tarheel Scanner/Shortwave Listeners' Field Day

By Virginia Enzor KG4PFA

"Attention all operatives, the Potomac River is at high tide; the Potomac River is at high tide." That was just one of the catches that perked listeners' ears recently at the Tarheel Scanner/Shortwave Listeners' Field Day at Baileywick Park in north Raleigh on Saturday, May 15, 2004. It appeared to be a Spy Numbers Station relaying a message to intelligence operatives in the field. What did it mean? We may never know, but it was an exciting log that sparked the imagination!

Approximately 12 listeners gathered with radios, antennas, scanners, headphones, log books, Passport to World Band Radio guides, Monitoring Times, and more for some serious listening. Among the radios were a Kenwood R-5000, an Icom IC-R71A, an IC R75, a Yaesu FRG-100, a Grundig Satellit 800, a Radio Shack DX-390 and several Sangean portables.

Some participants hooked onto a wire antenna strung up by Tom McKee (K4ZAD), Wayne Blackwell (KD4SLQ) and John Garrett (N4YFU). Some brought loop antennas to enhance the reception of AM broadcast stations. Others simply hooked an alligator clip to the metal roof of the shelter. The roof appeared to be as good an HF antenna as the long wire strung up in the trees.

Early in the afternoon, Robert Pierpoint (KG4BDX) and Tom McKee (K4ZAD) picked up quite a few beacons on long wave (198-350 kHz). John Garrett (N4YFU) wowed us with weather map images on his computer which were received by radio signals from polar orbiting satellites. Later, distant stations around the world caught our attention. A voice would ring out, "Here's Radio Australia," and many would switch to that frequency. Then someone would announce another catch, and enthusiasts would change frequencies again.

Listeners could only be lured away from their posts by the aroma of hamburgers on the grill and pizza from a nearby pizzeria. Several participants also took time away to check into the 8:00 p.m. RARS 2-meter net.

The SWL Field Day brought visitors out as well. Mark Gibson (N4MQU) and his family, Dennis Mason (K4DAM), Frank Bridges (AE4MY), and others came by to socialize and check out the radios. A young lad of 14 rode up on his bike and asked to listen to a station in Germany. Talk in German was heard on Deutsche Welle, and the young man translated the spoken word to the delight of those around. Virginia Enzor (KG4PFA) gave him the opportunity to speak as a third party to Mike George (KC4WUH) on the 146.64 repeater following the RARS net. He was thrilled; we hope he will be a future ham and shortwave listener.

The weather couldn't have been better, and the steady, gentle breeze made the afternoon and evening quite comfortable. Hopefully, the weather will be equally pleasant as the thrill of DXing draws us out again at the next field day in the fall.

Continued on Page 6

John N4FYU (right) explains to Charlie Broyles how weather images are received from polar orbiting satellites.

Photo by Virginia KG4PFA



(Continued from page 5)

Here are some loggings the group at field day:

Time (UTC)	Freq (Khz)	Station	Notes
20:20	17,735	Radio Netherlands	Talk
21:20	13,780	Germany – Deutsche Welle	Music
	11,740	VO Islamic Republic Iran	Music
	12,080	Radio Australia	News
	11,905	Germany – Deutsche Welle	Talk (German language)
22:55	13,785	Radio Canada International	“Media Zone”
23:34	21,740	Radio Australia	Talk
23:35	9,875	Radio Vilnius Lithuania	Talk on Euro-elections
23:37	9,550	Radio Habana Cuba	DX’ers Unlimited w/ Arnie C.
	9,655	Radio Habana Cuba	New Freq, Spanish, +40/9!
23:47	17,815	Brazil Radio Cultura	Music (São Paulo)
23:55	13,855USB	Armed Forces Network	Racing
00:00	15,720	New Zealand	News
	13,630	Radio Australia	Music
	5,446USB	US Armed Forces Radio	Baseball game
	7,507USB	US Armed Forces Radio	Baseball game
	12,134LSB	US Armed Forces Radio	Baseball game
	13,855USB	US Armed Forces Radio	Automotive repair program
	6,160	CKZN – St. Johns, Nfld Canada	Music
	6,915	Spy numbers station	“The Potomac River is at High Tide”
	9,625	CBC Canada (Sackville)	Oldies show – Finkelman
00:29	9,640	Germany – Deutsche Welle	Traditional German music
00:40	5,450USB	Volmet (Aero Weather) Belfast Ireland?	
00:56	9,615	Brazil, São Paulo Radio SAWA interference	
	9,615	USA Radio SAWA	US propaganda (Middle East)
01:00	11,800	Italy, RAI	Rome news in English
01:13	3,220	HCJB Quito Equador Flute Music – VO the Andes	
01:15	3,320	S. Africa	
01:17	6,915	Spy numbers	Female voice
01:20	9,870	Australia Radio	“Report from Austria” prog.
01:22	11,690	Finland	
	5,930	Slovakia	
01:25	4,875	Brazil R. Difusora Roraima, Boa Vista	
	4,885	Brazil	Several different stations
01:35	4,908±	Jammer?	Sweeping noise
01:38	4,916	Unid	Spanish instrumental music

The Tarheel Scanner/Shortwave Listeners’ Group meets the third Monday of every month at the El Rodeo Restaurant, 4112 Pleasant Valley Road, Raleigh. The meal begins at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Visitors are welcome! The Tarheel Scanner/Shortwave Listeners’ Net is held every Monday at 9:00 p.m. on 146.64 repeater.

Special thanks go to Bob Zeher KE4JYV and Wayne Blackwell KD4SLQ for their contributions to this article.

Robert KG4BDX, and FrankAE4MY enjoy field Day as Mark N4MQU and George WA4EKJ socialize in the background.



Field Day organizer Tom K4ZAD settles in to catch the distant signals.



Photos by Virginia KG4PFA

LOOKing Back 30 Years

Taken from the July 1974 Exciter

Emergency Medical Service Report and Order has been finished. The proposed bite off the top of the 410-450 MHz amateur band did NOT get bitten off. However, the threat was, and is, a very real one, other services want (and need) our frequencies—though the new 900 MHz 2-way band is already relieving a lot of that pressure.

C.T. West, one of our most active RARS members, has moved to Washington D.C. as Press Secretary for Senator Jesse Helms. C.T. formerly served for Governor Bob Scott in the same position. He was very helpful in helping with Amateur Radio Weeks in NC and many other PR activities for amateur radio.



LOOKing Back 10 Years

Taken from the July 1994 Exciter

The old RARS shed was up for auction on July 23, 1994. Computer terminals, transformers, electronic gear and various radio parts were all up for sale at irresistible prices. The Five County Repeater Group recently announced the availability of several new repeaters at their Wendell (Lizard Lick) site. The repeaters are UHF 442.000, .220 meter is 224.8 and 10 meter is 29.680.

An Amateur Radio film, "Ham Radio Horizons," was named a finalist in the CINDY awards competition.

NET REPORTS FOR MAY 2004

8:00PM DAILY: RARS Evening Net

**Participants 425
Traffic 15/19
Time 693 minutes
Sessions 31**

8:30PM SAT: Tech & Traders Net 9:00PM MON: SWL/SIG

**Participants 68
Traffic 0/0
Time 458 Minutes
Sessions 10**

146.88 145.39, 147.105, & 147.135 Repeaters are supported by PCRN if you would like to donate please make checks to:

**PCRN
PO Box 12734
Raleigh, NC 27605**

More info on PCRN: www.pcrn.net

DAYTON—RAIN AGAIN

Dayton attendance seems light, though by any other hamfest standards, its still huge. Friday was off a little, but with an all-day rain, Saturday was way down. Usually when it rains, the flea-market takes a hit, but the indoor exhibits are mobbed. This year it was busy inside, but not an extraordinary crush.

Not much gee-whiz new equipment to report on, either. Exhibit Hall 1 featured Icom, Kenwood, CQ Magazine and a bunch of dealers and smaller exhibitors.



Photos and article by Gary KN4AQ

My wife (KA2SBC) and I went to the Hamvention this year and thoroughly enjoyed it. It was very smooth this year and the weather was ideal on Friday. The crowd was split between the flea market and arena. There was a good sized crowd around the Icom IC-7800. Wow! I did come home with a Kenwood TS-480SAT for the car and ordered a 4el Steppir antenna. We left Saturday morning in the rain so I'm sure the crowd inside was larger then Friday.

Larry WA2SRY
Durham, NC

RARS NEW MEMBERS

May 2004

We would like to welcome our new members to RARS. Thank you for considering us for your amateur radio club.

Larry KD5ZTX
Charles KI4DCR
Bill KN4IX

Minutes of the RARS Board Meeting April 20, 2004

The RARS board meeting was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Tuesday, April 20, 2004. Members present were W8HYD, K4RLC, KG4PFA, N4HAF, KG4OQA, K4HF, K4HM, KG4RMT, N4IS, KE4PAX, KG4CXR and KG4FIJ. N4ZVU attended as a visitor.

The meeting was called to order by President Andy Peterson, N14S, at 7:37 p.m.

The minutes from the March meeting were presented, amended, and approved.

Officers Reports

Treasurer's Report (KE4PAX): There are currently 273 members.

Vice President's Report (W8HYD):

The program for the May meeting will be Radio Astronomy, presented by Mark Gibson, N4MQU.

There will be a children's preparation class for the Technician Class license this summer. K4RLC will assist in finding child-appropriate training materials. There may be an adult class for Technician and General Class licenses as well.

Committee Reports

FM Committee (KA2FWC): In absence of KA2FWC, N14S reported that planning is underway for a 220 repeater.

Exciter (KG4CXR): The May issue of the Exciter is ready.

Net Manager (KG4OQA): The nets are doing well, and there is a need for additional net controls. KG4CXR asked if future Skywarn net controls could call the RARS net a few times in order to gain experience.

Web Master (W4NOT): No report

Membership (KG4CXR): There will be someone to greet and welcome visitors at the general meetings, beginning in May.

Field Day (N4HAF): Field Day will be June 26-27 at the Carroll farm in Apex, NC. Planning is complete.

Hamfest (K4HM): Attendance was slightly down but there was an increase in table rentals and vendors. Only positive comments were heard about the hamfest.

Public Information: (KN4AQ) No report

Education (K4RLC): The Hurricane Awareness Fair will be held at Lowes on Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh, on Saturday, June 19, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Emergency Communications course is on hold.

Public Service (K1RCB): No report

ARRL Liaison (K4HF): Members were encouraged to subscribe to the ARRL newsletter; signup is possible on the ARRL website.

W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (AC4ZO): No report

At Large Directors (KG4FIJ, KG4RMT, WA9SZL): Nothing to report

Special or AD Hoc Committees: KE4PAX reported that he is scheduling a financial review.

Unfinished Business

Some awards were missed in the April meeting and will be given out in the May general meeting.

New Business

Andy Peterson, N4IS, mentioned the problem of spam from the ARRL and RARS website. The topic was tabled for future discussion.

Treasurer Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, handed out draft budget for 2004-2005 and went over it. The budget will be presented to the general membership in June for approval.

On motion by KG4FIJ, the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Enzor, KG4PFA, Secretary

Cary Hamfest is Saturday July 17. Tickets are \$5 at the door \$4 in advance.

NEW 400-space parking deck with covered outdoor flea market will be the highlight this year. Watch your antennas in the deck. E-mail n4nc@arrl.net for more info.

HAMFEST CALENDAR



June 26-27	FIELD DAY
July 3	Salisbury, NC
July 17	Cary, NC
July 31	Roanoke, VA
July 31	Waynesville, NC
September 4-5	Shelby, NC
September 18-19	Virginia Bch, VA
October 10*	Maysville, NC
October 23	Sumpter, SC
October 30	Myrtle Beach, SC
November 13	Gastonia, NC
November 21	Benson, NC- JARSFEST

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* Date is not confirmed

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**The Central Carolina
Skywarn Net Meets
Tuesdays at 9:15 PM**

Remember to give damage reports AFTER the storms as well as DURING the storms.
Website: www.ccskywarn.net

Severe weather: NWS is asking we always give reports when there's damaging winds, flooding where it doesn't normally occur, and any rotation or funnel clouds. Someone from Skywarn is usually listening so just call. Please call on 146.88.

SKYWARN DINNER:

The Skywarn dinner for June has been cancelled. Field Day is the same weekend and Father's Day is the weekend of June 20th. Notice for July will be announced on the nets.

HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE ARE YOU READY?

There's predictions that we will have a hurricane this summer. Do you have your generators ready? Do you have batteries? If you need a full list of what is needed a great website is:

[Http://nhc.noaa.gov/haw2/english/intro.shtml](http://nhc.noaa.gov/haw2/english/intro.shtml)

John VanPelt EC for Central Carolina Skywarn was in the Midwest May 29 to do some storm chasing for tornados. He didn't see just one, but 4. People pay thousands of dollars for the chance, he did it all in a day. The website that tells it all is

<http://www.vastormphoto.com/tornadoalley04.htm>

Other site www.stormstudy.com for any severe weather all over the country.



Just one of the 4 tornados seen in Harper, OK May 29, 2004 by John VanPelt.

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all PL tones=100.0 Hz	Full time linked repeaters

KD4RAA/K4JDR Repeater Group

TEARA Meetings

Date: 4th Tuesday of each month

Place: The Meeting Place restaurant in Wendell

Time: 6:00P.M. for Dinner & 6:30P.M. for meeting
Sam Johnson NC4SJ

TARHEEL SCANNER & SWL FIELD DAY



Front row: Virginia KG4PFA, Robert KG4BDX, Frank AE4MY, Dennis K4DAM, Linda KD4JMJ

Back row: Tom K4ZAD, Bob KE4JVV, Noble N4UOQ, Ed N4SSU, George WA4EKG, Wayne KD3SLQ, John N4YFU, Mark N4MQU